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23 March 1982

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
66th and York Ave.
New York, NY 10081

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

It is always nice to hear from you, as I now do every several years, if only this time with a request for information.

The question you raise is an interesting one. I have some notes on the subject stored away somewhere, and I will send them to you as they are uncovered. The first reference I have ever found to someone making the statement about the stages in the reception of one's discovery being denial followed by plagiarism and worthlessness is that of a letter written by Benjamin Franklin to Dr. Lining from Philadelphia on the eighteenth of March 1755. I am enclosing a xerox copy of the title page of my very first book, published (I can hardly believe it) a little more than forty years ago, in which you will see how Benjamin Franklin put forth this point of view clearly and forcibly.

I certainly hope there will be the opportunity to have a real talk with you about matters that we both have a strong interest in-- some day.

Sincerely yours,

I. Bernard Cohen *ku*
I. Bernard Cohen
Victor S. Thomas Professor
of the History of Science

(agstoum)
re v Humboldt

IBC:km
Enclosure